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SENATE MEMORIAL 48

**49TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2009**

INTRODUCED BY

Dede Feldman

A MEMORIAL

RELATING TO PUBLIC ASSISTANCE; REQUESTING THE HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT TO MAKE MONTHLY REPORTS AND TO RETAIN DOCUMENTATION REGARDING MEDICAID AND THE STATE CHILDREN'S HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM ENROLLMENT AND RETENTION.

WHEREAS, the medicaid and state children's health insurance programs provide health coverage to over four hundred thirty thousand New Mexicans, or approximately one out of every five residents; and

WHEREAS, enrollment in medicaid has been very unstable for children, women and families over the past five years; and

WHEREAS, almost one-third of New Mexico children who are eligible for medicaid and the state children's health insurance program are not enrolled; and

WHEREAS, health care providers and advocates for the poor

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1 report that individuals have had their cases denied or  
2 terminated by administrative procedures that prevent eligible  
3 people from receiving benefits to which they are entitled; and

4 WHEREAS, collecting data on enrollment and retention is  
5 essential for evaluating the medicaid program, maximizing  
6 enrollment and enhancing administrative efficiency; and

7 WHEREAS, well-run programs around the country routinely  
8 collect data on case denial and closure rates, point-in-time  
9 enrollment and budgets listed by type of enrollee; and

10 WHEREAS, the human services department collects and stores  
11 information on the reasons why medicaid applications are denied  
12 and cases are closed, but does not publicly report these  
13 reasons; and

14 WHEREAS, the human services department provides denial  
15 rates and closure rates for other public assistance programs in  
16 a monthly statistical report, including these rates for the  
17 supplemental nutritional assistance program formerly known as  
18 the food stamp program, temporary assistance for needy  
19 families and general assistance programs, but not for the  
20 medicaid program; and

21 WHEREAS, all states must report data under new federal  
22 requirements on the enrollment of children in medicaid and the  
23 state children's health insurance program, including data on  
24 eligibility criteria, enrollment and retention, and denials and  
25 redeterminations of eligibility;

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1           NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE  
2 OF NEW MEXICO that the human services department be requested  
3 to make available on an internet web site that the department  
4 maintains, and through publication of a monthly statistical  
5 report, data to assess the enrollment and retention of  
6 individuals who are eligible for medicaid and the state  
7 children's health insurance program, including annual budget  
8 projections and expenditures by category of eligibility,  
9 monthly point-in-time numbers of enrolled recipients, listed by  
10 each category of eligibility, showing the number of individuals  
11 actually enrolled in medicaid or the state children's health  
12 insurance program at the time of reporting; and

13           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the human services department  
14 include in the report monthly denial rates for medicaid and the  
15 state children's health insurance program, including for each  
16 month the number of applications that the department received;  
17 the number of applications that the department approved; the  
18 number of applications that the department denied; and for  
19 those applications denied, the number of cases denied and the  
20 denial code, listing according to income or asset  
21 ineligibility; voluntary withdrawal; procedural denial;  
22 categorical ineligibility; or any other reason for denial or  
23 ineligibility; and

24           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the human services department  
25 be requested to report monthly the termination rates for

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1     medicaid and state children's health insurance program cases,  
2     including the number of cases due for renewal, the number of  
3     renewals received, the number of renewals denied, the number of  
4     recipients whose cases were terminated, along with the reason  
5     for termination by code, and the number of recipients that the  
6     department disenrolled and reinstated within six months; and

7             BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the human services department  
8     be requested to report to the interim legislative health and  
9     human services committee and provide that committee with the  
10    data set forth in this memorial by November 1, 2009 and again  
11    by November 1, 2010, as well as provide that committee with a  
12    report concerning its progress on providing the public with  
13    this data; and

14            BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
15    transmitted to the governor, the secretary of human services  
16    and the chair and vice chair of the legislative health and  
17    human services committee.

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